

HOUSE No. 1541

By Ms. Khan of Newton, petition of Kay Khan and others relative to providing written health education information to incarcerated women by correctional institutions. The Judiciary.

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

PETITION OF:

Kay Khan	John W. Scibak
Mark C. Montigny	Alice Hanlon Peisch
Douglas W. Petersen	Louis L. Kafka
Timothy J. Toomey, Jr.	Pam Richardson
Cleon H. Turner	Martha M. Walz
Susan C. Fargo	Ruth B. Balser
Denise Provost	Gloria L. Fox
Stephen Kulik	Susan C. Tucker
Barbara A. L'Italien	Stephen M. Brewer
Steven J. D'Amico	Peter V. Kocot
William N. Brownsberger	Sarah K. Peake
Pamela P. Resor	

In the Year Two Thousand and Seven.

AN ACT HEALTH EDUCATION IN WOMEN'S CORRECTIONAL INSTITUTIONS.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Court assembled, and by the authority of the same, as follows:

1 SECTION 1. Chapter 127 of the General Laws, as appearing in
2 the 2004 Official Edition, is hereby amended by inserting after
3 Section 16A the following new sections:—

4 Section 16B. Upon admission to a correctional institution and at
5 anytime thereafter, the health services unit in each correctional insti-
6 tution where women are incarcerated shall make available to all
7 women written information on women's health, contraception, and
8 sexually transmitted infections. A user-friendly brochure containing
9 the aforementioned information shall be created by the department
10 of public health and distributed in the women's native languages.

11 Section 16C. Not less than four months prior to the date of release
12 for a female prisoner of child bearing age, the medical director of the

13 correctional institution where the prisoner is incarcerated shall offer
14 the prisoner contraception counseling and a gynecological exam
15 including a Pap Test. Following said counseling, the medical
16 director shall offer to provide her with the form of contraception she
17 so chooses including but not limited to:— female condoms, male
18 condoms, diaphragm, cervical cap, intra-uterine device, prescription
19 birth control, or contraceptive sponges. If the prisoner selects a type
20 of contraception that must be taken for a period of time before it
21 becomes effective, then the prisoner shall begin the regimen not less
22 than three months prior to her date of release. Said medication shall
23 be distributed during regular medication distribution. Upon her
24 release, the medical director shall furnish the woman with a twelve
25 month prescription to refill her medication, a referral to a pharmacy
26 or doctor where said prescription can be refilled, and a referral to a
27 primary care physician or gynecologist for follow up care.

1 SECTION 2. Chapter 127 of the General Laws, as appearing in
2 the 2004 Official Edition, is hereby amended by inserting after
3 Section 96B the following new section:—

4 Section 96C. The superintendent of each correctional institution
5 where women are incarcerated shall at all times offer a course on
6 health education open to all eligible women incarcerated in said
7 institutions. The course shall include, but not be limited to, the
8 following topics:— general health, nutrition, mental health, wom-
9 en's health concerns, domestic violence, substance abuse, sexually
10 transmitted infections, contraception, emergency contraception, sex
11 education, and pregnancy. Said course shall be developed in consul-
12 tation with the commissioner of public health.